

March 5, 2025  
Deborah Armfield, CNA  
Pawtucket

**Subject: Opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2)**

Dear Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

My name is Deb Armfield, I have been a Certified Nursing Assistant for 35 years. My entire career has taken place at the same nursing home, Pawtucket Falls on Gill St. in Pawtucket. My testimony today is in opposition to Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2).

To be a CNA, you must provide a special kind of care and nurture to your patients. Taking care of my patients makes me feel fulfilled. However, when we are short staffed at work the patients don't get the care they deserve such as cutting their nails or doing the extra things that bring the patients joy. The shift becomes a hectic rush. We get bigger assignments which means more residents we have to care for. I have one resident who feels neglected when we are short staffed because she does not get enough attention. Another problem that occurs when we are short staffed is that the patients stay in bed or in their chairs longer. If they are impatient enough, they try to get out of their bed or chair and go to the bathroom themselves, and that is a huge fall risk.

Our nursing home has been owned by five different companies over the 35 years I've been there. These big companies always say they don't have money for more staffing, but they seem to make plenty of money to afford it. The last company that owned us was Genesis Healthcare. You might have seen them in the news because they gave their CEO a \$5 million bonus. The CEOs make out, and us caregivers and patients suffer. That is why we need to protect the Nursing Home Staffing and Quality Care Act and oppose Budget Article 8 (Section 4) and Article 10 (Section 2). Our residents deserve safe staffing.